

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended).

An electrical connection element for providing a ground connection between a printed circuit board and an electronic equipment chassis, comprising:

a connection element having a trough portion which fits around a side wall portion of the chassis and at least one spring contact assembly for removably receiving and holding a ~~printed~~ circuit board inserted therein, such that the circuit board can be inserted and removed by hand, wherein the connection element includes a portion thereof which is configured to be directly attached to the ~~electronic~~ equipment chassis, and wherein insertion of the ~~printed~~ circuit board into the spring ~~contact~~ contact assembly results in a direct electrical connection between a circuit ground on the ~~printed~~ circuit board and the equipment chassis when the connection element is operatively attached to the equipment chassis.

Claim 2 (Original).

The connection element of claim 1, wherein the connection element is permanently securable to the equipment chassis.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended).

The connection element of claim 1, wherein ~~the connection element includes a~~ the trough portion ~~which~~ fits around a bottom edge of a the side wall portion of the equipment chassis, so that when ~~the end portion of the equipment~~ chassis is secured to the side wall portion, the connection element is captured therebetween.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended).

The connection element of claim 1, wherein the spring contact assembly includes ~~two~~ at least one elongated element ~~elements~~ with an ear portions near the top thereof ~~and extending~~

~~toward each other~~, wherein ~~an~~ the elongated element ~~members~~ and the ear portions ~~are~~ is configured so as to hold ~~an inserted~~ a printed circuit board in a spring pressure relationship.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended).

The connection element of claim 3, wherein the trough ~~member~~ portion includes two longitudinal side walls, with the spring contact assembly extending upwardly from one of the longitudinal side walls, and wherein the connection ~~member~~ element further includes a small center tab which extends inwardly of the trough portion at an angle to the spring contact assembly, the tab being used to accurately locate the ~~connecting~~ connection element relative to the equipment chassis by mating with a selected portion of the equipment chassis.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended).

The connection element of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a side wall of the trough portion from which the spring contact assembly extends angles inwardly ~~of~~ from the trough portion, thereby providing a preload capability which presses the spring contact assembly against the equipment chassis side wall when the connection element is operatively installed in the equipment chassis.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended).

The connection element of claim 1, wherein a bottom portion of the trough portion includes at least one small extension which makes ~~good~~ an electrical contact between the connection element and the ~~instrument~~ equipment chassis.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended).

The connection element of claim 1, including a plurality of spring contact assemblies for receiving and holding ~~printed~~ the circuit board thereinto, wherein the spring contact assemblies are spaced so as to be in registry with ~~printed~~ circuit board guides on the side wall of the equipment chassis ~~electronic instrument~~.

Claim 9 (Newly Added).

An electrical connection element for providing a ground connection between a printed circuit board and an electronic equipment chassis, comprising:

a connection element having at least one spring contact assembly including at least one elongated element with an ear portion near the top thereof for removably receiving and holding a circuit board inserted therein, such that the circuit board can be inserted and removed by hand, wherein the connection element includes a portion thereof which is configured to be directly attached to the equipment chassis, and wherein insertion of the circuit board into the spring contact assembly results in a direct electrical connection between a circuit ground on the circuit board and the equipment chassis when the connection element is operatively attached to the equipment chassis.

Claim 10 (Newly Added).

The connection element of claim 9, wherein the connection element is permanently securable to the equipment chassis.

Claim 11 (Newly Added).

The connection element of claim 9, wherein the connection element includes a trough portion which fits around a side wall portion of the equipment chassis, so that when the equipment chassis is secured to the side wall portion of the equipment chassis, the connection element is captured therebetween.

Claim 12 (Newly Added).

The connection element of claim 11, wherein the trough portion includes two longitudinal side walls, with the spring contact assembly extending upwardly from one of the longitudinal side walls, and wherein the connection element further includes a small center tab which extends inwardly of the trough portion at an angle to the spring contact assembly, the tab being used to accurately locate the connection element relative to the equipment chassis by mating with a selected portion of the equipment chassis.

Claim 13 (Newly Added).

The connection element of claim 12, wherein the side wall of the trough portion from which the spring contact assembly extends angles inwardly from the trough portion, thereby providing a preload capability which presses the spring contact assembly against the equipment chassis side wall when the connection element is operatively installed in the equipment chassis.

Claim 14 (Newly Added).

The connection element of claim 11, wherein a bottom portion of the trough portion includes at least one small extension which makes an electrical contact between the connection element and the equipment chassis.

Claim 15 (Newly Added).

The connection element of claim 9, including a plurality of spring contact assemblies for receiving and holding the circuit board thereinto, wherein the spring contact assemblies are spaced so as to be in registry with circuit board guides on the side wall of the equipment chassis.